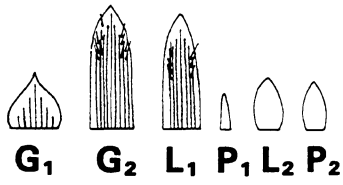




**S**

**X8.2**



**G<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> L<sub>1</sub> P<sub>1</sub> L<sub>2</sub> P<sub>2</sub>**

**X4.1**



# SACCIOLEPIS INDICA

## Indian Cupscale Grass

Annual, erect or creeping and rooting at the nodes, often densely tufted. *Culms* simply or less often branched, 30–60 cm tall, though sometimes taller, smooth, hairless. *Nodes* without hairs, pigmented. *Leaves* mostly on the culm. *Leaf sheaths* shorter than the internodes, becoming somewhat keeled towards the ligule, loose, striate, sometimes shortly hairy. *Ligule* a short membranous rim, 0.5 mm long. *Leaf blades* flat, hairless or slightly hairy, usually 8–12 cm long, but up to 25 cm long, 2–5 mm wide, narrowing gradually from about the middle to a point.

*Inflorescence* a spike-like panicle, 1–15 cm long, exerted well clear of the uppermost sheath, the spikelets densely packed along the axis. *Spikelets* (S) all similar, 2.5–3 mm long, shortly pedicelled on the very reduced panicle branches, noticeably bulging at the base on one side, at maturity falling entire. *Florets* 2, the lower floret neuter, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* (G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>) dissimilar; the lower glume (G<sub>1</sub>) about ½ the length of the spikelet, broad at the base, pointed, hairless, 3–7-nerved; the upper (G<sub>2</sub>) the length of the spikelet, rounded and bulging near the base on the back, hairy on the back in the upper half, 9–11-nerved. *Lemma* (L<sub>1</sub>) of the lower sterile floret similar to G<sub>2</sub>, but not bulging at the base, more sparsely hairy, 7-nerved. *Palea* (P<sub>1</sub>) reduced to a small membranous scale about ¼ the length of L<sub>1</sub>. *Lemma* (L<sub>2</sub>) of the upper fertile floret about ½ the length of the spikelet, pointed, nerveless, the margins clasping the margins of the palea, slightly hardened and shining. *Palea* (P<sub>2</sub>) similar to L<sub>2</sub>. *Anthers* 3, 1 mm long.

The grass is widespread, though not abundant, being found in damp areas, particularly in the coastal lowlands. It is not significant as a forage species.

### REFERENCES

Bailey (1902),<sup>1</sup> p. 1826 (as *Panicum* spp.); Gardner (1952),<sup>2</sup> pp. 262–64; Beadle *et al.* (1972),<sup>3</sup> pp. 669–70; Vickery (1975),<sup>4</sup> pp. 187–89.

### KEY TO SPECIES

Spikelets 1.5–2 mm long, only slightly bulging at base, fertile floret nearly as long as spikelet.

*S. myosuroides*<sup>1,2</sup>

Spikelets 2.5–3 mm long, strongly bulging at base, fertile floret about ½ length of spikelet (Indian cupscale grass)

*S. indica*<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>